

particularly the people in Central America, whose lives were devastated by Hurricane Mitch a month ago.

The Americas are also a family, and many relatives of our own citizens live in the nations hardest hit by the hurricane: Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador. The United States has already pledged \$263 million to the relief effort, offering food, loans, and vital health services. Our Armed Forces are on the scene transporting supplies, rebuilding roads and communities. The First Lady and Tipper Gore visited the region and renewed our pledge to do all we can to help.

So this Thanksgiving I ask you to keep the hurricane victims in your thoughts and prayers and to continue your generous donation to relief organizations. In this season of need, we will not let down our fellow Americans.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 5:40 p.m. on November 23 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast on November 25. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 25.

Statement on the Murder of Russian Parliamentarian Galina Starovoytova *November 25, 1998*

Americans everywhere join people across Russia in mourning the murder of Russian parliamentarian Galina Starovoytova. Through her work as a deputy in the State Duma, as an adviser to President Yeltsin, and as an early advocate of political change in Soviet times, Ms. Starovoytova made an immeasurable contribution to the development of democratic values and institutions throughout Russia. This tragic crime represents an assault on the Russian people's aspirations to build a society that is peaceful, tolerant, and governed by the rule of law. It is a terrible loss for friends of democracy around the world.

In recent days, the outpouring of grief in Ms. Starovoytova's beloved St. Petersburg and throughout Russia has testified to the enduring strength of the values she championed throughout her career. In mourning her loss, Russians and Americans are reminded of the importance of sustaining democracy and civility even at the most difficult

times. Indeed, we are troubled by recent expressions of anti-Semitism and extremism in Russia, and we will continue to stand with those who, like Ms. Starovoytova, have been leading Russia toward a more pluralistic, more tolerant future. Our thoughts and prayers go to her family and friends.

Memorandum on the Palestine Liberation Organization

November 25, 1998

Presidential Determination No. 99-5

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Waiver and Certification of Statutory Provisions Regarding the Palestine Liberation Organization

Pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 540(d) of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1999, Public Law 105-277, I hereby determine and certify that it is important to the national security interests of the United States to waive the provisions of section 1003 of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1987, Public Law 100-204, through May 24, 1999.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination to the Congress and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

William J. Clinton

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 21

In the afternoon, the President toured the National Folk Museum in Seoul, South Korea.

The President announced his intention to appoint Steven M. Hilton, Frank B. Moore, and William G. Simpson as members of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The President announced his intention to appoint Jon S. Corzine and Donna Cochran McLarty to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The President announced his intention to designate Maj. Gen. Roland Lajoie, USA (Ret.), as the Co-Chair of the U.S.-Russian Joint Commission on POW/MIA's, effective December 1.

November 22

In the morning, the President attended church services at a U.S. military facility in nearby Yongsan.

In the afternoon, the President visited the Korean Training Center, 25 miles northeast of Seoul, where he reviewed M-2 Bradley fighting vehicles and M1-Abrams tanks with U.S. and South Korean troops. In a brief ceremony, the President promoted Private First Class (E3) Matt E. Prickett to Specialist (E4).

Later, the President led troops in singing "Happy Birthday" to Command Sgt. Maj. Charles Thomas. He then had a "Meals-Ready-to-Eat" lunch with troops in the mess tent.

November 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Guam, arriving in the afternoon.

In the afternoon, the President visited the World War II memorial at the War in the Pacific National Historic Park.

Later, the President returned to Washington, DC, arriving the following evening.

November 25

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton went to Camp David, MD, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The White House announced that the President asked Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna E. Shalala to visit Lebanon as his personal representative.

November 27

The White House announced that the President will travel to Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank on December 12-15.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: The Congress having adjourned *sine die* on October 21, no nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 21

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Transcript of a press briefing by National Security Adviser Samuel Berger on the President's visit to South Korea

Statement by the Press Secretary on the National Bioethics Advisory Commission's letter concerning hybrid embryonic stem cell research

Released November 24

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Joe Lockhart

Released November 25

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit to Lebanon by the Secretary of Health and Human Services

Released November 27

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing the President's upcoming visit to the Middle East

Acts Approved by the President

NOTE: No acts approved by the President were received by the Office of the Federal Register during the period covered by this issue.